

Humane Society of Parkersburg

# **Senior Foster Care Handbook**

A Reference for Senior Foster Caregivers

(12.15 Version)

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## INTRODUCTION

### WELCOME TO OUR TEAM OF DEDICATED FOSTER CARE VOLUNTEERS

If you have never cared for a foster animal before with the HSOP, you are about to experience the joys of being a pet owner without the lifetime of responsibility. The following guidelines will help you with the care of your foster animal(s) and help you understand the policies and procedures of the HSOP's Senior Foster Care Program.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact our Senior Foster Care Coordinator:

**Kathy Flanagan 304-482-2335**

### FOSTER CARE PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The focus of HSOP's Senior Foster Care Program is to help older animals that are awaiting adoption, are recovering from surgery or illness, are awaiting transfer to a rescue, or are in need of other special care to stay in private homes.

Volunteer foster homes provide a safe place for foster animals to stay, nutritious food, socialization and health care to their animal guests. This important program enables us to save the lives of animals that might otherwise have to be euthanized. Before taking on the responsibility and commitment of becoming a foster care volunteer, please take the following into consideration:

### DO YOU HAVE TIME?

Understanding that senior animals can take a long time to find a forever home for, means that they could be in your home for many months. The time commitment for foster care may range from a few days to a week or even months! It is very important to understand that your foster could be with you for an extended period of time before getting into fostering senior animals.

While not always, it is exceptionally important that you be prepared for a long stay before entering into fostering.

Common foster situations and durations are:

- Animal that is waiting for a home or a rescue. May be in foster care for months.
- Animal that has been chosen for adoption or for rescue but is not going home immediately and needs a place to stay until it does. Usually a week or two at most.
- ☐ Animal is sick or injured and needs quiet, healthy environment to recover. Foster period could be as short as a week or two or as long as several weeks or months depending on the illness or injury. This does not occur frequently. However foster parents for special needs animals may require a significant time commitment and experience with injured or ill animals.

In addition to time spent caring for and socializing your foster animal(s) in your home, you must consider the possibility of additional time for vet checks or medical care, transporting to and from the vet for spay/neutering and meeting potential adopters.

The need for foster homes varies according to the season of the year, the number of animals currently being fostered, and the number of foster homes available.

### DO YOU HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES TO HOUSE FOSTER ANIMALS?

We ask that you only take on the number of animals that you can house comfortably, keep adequately clean and fed, and provide adequate socialization for. Always keep the needs of your own personal pets in mind whenever you consider fostering. See next section, Housing Your Foster Animal for details about housing.

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE EMOTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS?**

Caring for animals requiring medical attention and socialization can be fun, but it is also a lot of work. You will also develop an emotional attachment to your fosters and must face the reality that, in spite of your best efforts, not all foster animals will thrive. While our foster animals have a high rate of placement, we cannot guarantee that each and every animal will find a permanent home.

## HOUSING YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

One of the biggest differences between fostering senior animals and our other foster program (puppies and kittens) is probably our expectations regarding where they will stay in your home. Unlike puppies and kittens that require a separate space in your home, fostering senior animals is much easier as in most cases we believe senior animals can be housed along with your current pets, assuming they are amenable to other animals. And it is our goal to try to ensure that your foster will be a good fit in your home with your other animals and other people, so ensuring a good fit before you get your foster home will be a top priority.

One of the common benefits of seniors is that they are often already housebroken, are past the chewing and getting into trouble stage, do not require as much exercise and stimulation and often settle into even a busy lifestyle with a good bit of ease. All these qualities can make housing a senior pet easier than younger animals.

Our foster care coordinator(s) can also assist you in setting up the most appropriate environment for the animals in your care and your lifestyle. Please feel free to consult with them about housing questions, issues or ideas that you have.

The following guidelines are just suggestions.

- If your foster has had an injury, is recovering from surgery or an ailment, it may be necessary to house them separately for the duration of their recovery. This may mean a separate room, segregated space in a kitchen or laundry room, crate, kennel or playpen to keep them separate from your animals or to limit their activity.
- With older cats, sometimes keeping the new foster separate from your other cats for a few days to a week can help them acclimate to their new space. A spare bedroom or bathroom where they can smell their new friends but not have direct contact with them initially can be a good way to introduce them to their new surroundings.
- With dogs, properly introducing them to existing pets in the household can take place before bringing them home from the shelter in the same manner we recommend for adopters with existing dogs. This eliminates some of the territorial issues that your dog may have in your home. Also it allows for you to have the staff at the shelter assist you with the introduction.
- Also if you have young children in your home, it is beneficial for them to meet your potential foster at the shelter in advance of taking them into your home to ensure that they are comfortable with them as well. We want the foster experience to be a positive one for everyone involved and having a dog that is scared or anxious or nippy with young children is not ideal. Again we want to do as much as possible to ensure that everyone gets along.

We can assist by providing needed supplies like crates and playpens to facilitate the process as well. But one of the benefits of older animals is that they are less apt to chew, get into things and/or require the sort of “puppy proofing” needed for puppies and kittens.

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## HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

A few things to keep in mind as it pertains to fostering older animals, is that they could have an underlying health concern that we don't know about upon their arrival at the shelter. Even animals coming from a home may have issues that the owner was not aware of or was unwilling to be forthcoming about when they were surrendered them to the shelter. Often owners do not share accurate or complete information for fear that if the truth is known, we will not deem them adoptable. As such it may take some time to uncover an issue.

While we are talking about senior animals, it is possible that at some point we may uncover that they are pregnant. In such instances, if we discover this early enough in their pregnancy, we in most all cases will choose to terminate the pregnancy, knowing that there are already too many dogs/cats without homes and allowing more to be born when other animals are already dying is not something we condone. Again, we ask that you respect this policy and be alert to any signs that your foster may be pregnant and notify the Senior Foster Care Coordinator as soon as possible.

It also may be that an animal coming into our care is suffering simply from neglect or malnourishment and with proper care and attention will soon recover and be very adoptable. So while some animals may look or act like they feel very bad upon arrival, our hope is with the care and attention of a foster home, they will soon be ready for adoption.

### Protecting Your Foster

Prior to being placed into foster care, all animals old enough will be vaccinated, wormed and given flea/tick treatments as necessary. As this manual is specific to senior animals, in virtually every case these animals will be fully vaccinated prior to going into foster. In a few cases, the health of an animal may not permit this but we will ensure you are aware of their health status before asking you to take them home. They may require additional vaccinations and/or wormings after you get them home, so returning them to the shelter for follow ups may be necessary.

Please contact the Foster Care Coordinator if you suspect your foster animal has parasites and an appointment will be set to assess and/or treat the animal(s).

When you pick up your foster animal(s) you will receive instructions that will provide any specific instructions and/or medications your foster may need while in your home. The foster care coordinator will keep track of when worming and shots are due and notify you to meet up with them.

We will rely upon you as the foster and having the exposure to your foster animal to let us know how your foster is doing. Please don't hesitate to do so especially if you see anything of concern, changes in health, etc.

### Protecting Your Pets

When bringing any new animal, including foster animal, into your home, please keep in mind that while they have been vaccinated, it is possible that they be carrying an illness that could affect your resident animals' health. Most commonly kennel cough in dogs and upper respiratory infections in cats may accompany your foster home. This is why it's very important that your pets are fully vaccinated and if you have any very old or very young animals, keep them separate from the senior foster if they do have any such illness.

Your dogs are also current on the Bordetella vaccination (Kennel Cough).

Additionally we will test cats sent to foster prior to leaving the shelter but be aware that since you may permit your foster cat to share the litter box that is used by other cats you may have, it is important that you ensure that your

cats are not carrying anything that may be transmitted via the sharing of a litter box.

For your information below is detailed information about common diseases that can be transmitted between animals.

### **DISEASES THAT ARE TRANSMISSIBLE FROM ANIMAL TO ANIMAL:**

- **Distemper/Upper Respiratory Virus (Dogs and Cats)** – These are the basic yearly vaccinations your pet(s) should be kept current on at all times for both their protection and that of the foster animals.
- **Feline Leukemia (Cats)** – Your resident cat(s) must test negative and be kept current on Feline Leukemia vaccinations at all times. Foster cats and kittens will be tested and found to be negative before being sent into the foster home. Since kittens under 3 months of age may show a “false” negative when tested, it is a good idea to keep them completely separate from your own cats, if at all possible. Feline Leukemia is transmitted between cats via fluids. This normally occurs through licking and shared litter boxes.
- **FIV (“Feline AIDS”) (Cats)** – To prevent infection of your cats and foster animals, your resident cat(s) and foster cats or kittens must also be tested and determined to be negative of this virus. This test is usually given in conjunction with the Feline Leukemia test. Be aware that there is currently no vaccination against FIV in cats. FIV is normally transmitted by deep bite wounds.
- **Parvovirus (Dogs)** – Annual vaccinations protect against this serious and often fatal canine disease. Your own dogs must be kept currently vaccinated against parvo at all times. Be aware that parvovirus is not a disease that affects puppies only. Unvaccinated elderly animals are at risk, and must always be kept current on their parvovirus inoculations.

**The following are infestations that there is no vaccination to prevent, so identifying them and understanding how they are transmitted is important to avoiding the problem.**

- **Roundworms** – Roundworms are big worms. Typically they are white, about the diameter of a spaghetti-strand and about 4 inches in length. Roundworms are particularly common in puppies and may produce no symptoms other than diarrhea. However, it is also common for roundworms to be seen in the animal’s stool or to be vomited or coughed up. Cats and dogs can be born with roundworms, get them from their mother’s milk or through the feces of an infected animal. This commonly occurs through shared water and food bowls, bedding materials, or even in the yard. So your pets could pick up this worm from an infected foster animal.
- **Tapeworms** – This worm looks like rice when they are dead or like a short piece of spaghetti noodle, when still alive. Tapeworms are not as common in puppies as in adult animals. They will usually be seen in the stool or on the hair around the pets rear end. You may also find them on the ground, carpet or bedding. Another sign may be diarrhea streaked with mucous. Animals most commonly get this worm from fleas or specifically from eating the flea or intestines of other animals (mouse, bird, rat, etc.) that has fleas. What this should mean to you, is that even if your animals are flea free, they could come into contact with fleas if your foster animal has them.
- **Hookworms** - This worm is generally invisible to the unaided human eye. They are about 1/2 inch long and very, very thin. Kittens or puppies may be born with hookworms, get them during nursing or ingest a Hookworm larva found in the environment (like on a blade of grass, a toy, water or food dish). Signs of hookworms vary, but may include nonspecific diarrhea; dark black (tarry) diarrhea; bloody diarrhea; vomiting; poor or no appetite, pale mucous membranes in the mouth and generalized pallor; weakness, emaciation and poor growth.
- **Ringworm** – Ringworm is a skin infection caused by a fungus, not an actual worm. Ringworm is transmitted in a variety of ways, although physical contact with an infected animal is the most common. Dry scaly spots will appear after one to two weeks, and are usually confined to the hairier regions of the scalp, forearms and face. Hair will break off at the roots, creating bald spots. Exposure occurs through physical contact of any type with an infected animal. Animals should receive immediate attention by a veterinarian.

- **Mange** – The parasite that causes mange is transmitted through physical contact. This animal-to-human form is less serious than the human-to-human form, and usually cures itself in three to four weeks. Infected animals suffer blisters, scabs and hair loss. Physical contact with infected animals and their bedding should be avoided. There are two types of mange: Sarcoptic and Demodex. Sarcoptic mange can be transmitted to people and other animals. Demodex cannot be passed from one animal to another.

## Protecting Yourself

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that are transmitted from animals to people. They are always of concern to those who handle or work with animals on a regular basis.

### DISEASES THAT MAY BE TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS:

- **Roundworms** – Roundworms are big worms. Typically they are white, about the diameter of a spaghetti-strand and about 4 inches in length. Roundworms are particularly common in puppies and may produce no symptoms other than diarrhea. However, it is also common for roundworms to be seen in the animal's stool or to be vomited or coughed up.
  - Cats and dogs can be born with roundworms, get them from their mothers' milk or through the feces of an infected animal. This commonly occurs through shared water and food bowls, bedding materials, or even in the yard.
  - Children are particularly susceptible to roundworms because they often play in the dirt and sand where the larvae reside. Once ingested, the roundworms will migrate to the lungs, liver, heart, brain and eyes – causing severe damage! To prevent infection, avoid public areas (such as parks and school grounds) where animals frequently defecate, and wash your hands often.
- **Tapeworms** – This worm looks like rice. They will usually be seen in the stool or on the hair around the dog's anus. You may also find them on the ground, carpet or bedding. Animals most commonly get this worm from eating a flea that has ingested the eggs of a tapeworm. While generally people don't get tapeworms from animals, on very rare occasions, children have been infected with tapeworms by swallowing a flea accidentally and generally causes tremendous cramping and discomfort.
- **Giardia** – This intestinal disease occurs throughout the world and is common in cats and dogs. Like many zoonosis, Giardia is contracted by the fecal-oral route. Symptoms may include weight loss and chronic diarrhea. There are now reliable tests and drugs for treating Giardia, but a veterinarian or physician should be contacted at once! Giardia can be prevented through proper and thorough hand washing.
- **Toxoplasmosis** – Cats are the primary cause of Toxoplasmosis among humans. The lifecycle of this parasite is very complex, but infection usually occurs when an owner comes into contact with a cat's feces. Human symptoms include headaches, enlarged lymph nodes and a flu-like illness. This disease can cause serious birth defects if contracted by a mother during early pregnancy. Most humans will be unaffected by its presence, however, an expectant mother can avoid exposure simply by avoiding litterbox duties while pregnant.
- **Ringworm** – Ringworm is a skin infection caused by a fungus, not an actual worm. Ringworm is transmitted in a variety of ways, although physical contact with an infected animal is the most common. Dry scaly spots will appear after one to two weeks, and are usually confined to the hairier regions of the scalp, forearms and face. Hair will break off at the roots, creating bald spots. Exposure can be greatly reduced by wearing rubber gloves and thoroughly washing after handling an infected animal. Animals should receive immediate attention by a veterinarian.
- **Mange** – The parasite that causes mange is transmitted through physical contact. This animal-to-human form is less serious than the human-to-human form, and usually cures itself in three to four weeks. Infected animals suffer blisters, scabs and hair loss. Physical contact with infected animals and their bedding should be avoided. There are two types of mange: Sarcoptic and Demodex. Sarcoptic mange can be transmitted to

people and other animals. Demodex cannot.

## Information to Keep You Healthy

- You need not come into direct contact with an infected animal to contract a disease. Many of these parasites are transmitted via bodily fluids, on hands, shoes, clothing, tools, etc.
- Make it a habit to always practice good hygiene, including washing your hands thoroughly with hot water and antibacterial soap after handling your foster animals.
- Be aware that animals can carry a parasite without exhibiting any symptoms. Do not trust your eyes. Use the same precautions with a healthy-looking animal as you would with a sick one.

## What do I do if my foster becomes ill?

There are typically many symptoms to indicate an animal is not feeling well. Always be observant of your foster animals. Symptoms of illness may include: diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, weight loss, runny eyes or nose, sneezing, and coughing. If you have a concern during the day that your foster animal may be getting sick, please don't wait until night time when staff is unavailable.

If a foster animal should begin to show symptoms of illness while in your care please follow these procedures so that your animal will receive the care it needs:

### **CONTACT THE FOSTER CARE COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY. THE COORDINATOR WILL INSTRUCT YOU WHAT TO DO.**

- Please be prepared to provide information including the animal's name, age, your name, and the symptoms of illness.
- If an animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, alert, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to receive help. If the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, however, it is wise to seek emergency help as soon as possible.

### **CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCIES**

- Continuous diarrhea (particularly if liquid or foul-smelling)
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind – from the nose or mouth, or in urine or stools
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, limping, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty breathing

**Reminder:** If you choose to take the animal to a private veterinarian, please be aware that the HSOP may be unable to reimburse you for any charges you may incur. Due to the limited funds of the foster care program, emergency clinic or private veterinary services may only be reimbursed under unusual circumstances and only with prior approval from the Foster Care Coordinator or the Executive Director of the HSOP.

## GETTING STARTED

### What Your Need to Know

#### **Transport Carriers, Crates or Cages**

Normally we will provide you with an animal transport carrier, cage or crate for your foster animal that will need to be returned to the shelter when you are finished fostering the animal. We can also provide you with a crate or kennel to house your animal in at your home if you prefer to do so. Again our hope is that senior animals can enjoy the same freedoms that your pets do while in your care. At least after an initial “get to know you” period. If you do use a crate, it should be safe, secure and an appropriate size for the animal you are fostering.

#### **Food**

Food can be provided to fosters upon request. However, if you choose to provide your own food, it must be a quality dry cat and dog food. We generally recommend Iams and Purina products. However, if you want to feed something other than these, please talk with the Foster Care Coordinator before commencing feeding that product.

We do feed Purina products in our shelter and do not change foods because it can cause digestive problems. However you may choose to change to whatever food you feed your pets but in that case we will not be providing you with a supply of food.

#### **Food and Water Dishes**

Food and water dishes will be provided by HSOP to foster homes if you need them.

#### **Cat Litterboxes**

Litterboxes will be provided as available and on request to foster caregivers.

#### **Toys and Other Playthings**

We usually have a good supply of toys for dogs and cats, so if you'd like some for your foster animal you are welcome to stop at the shelter and ask for some toys for your foster dog or cat.

### Additional Care Hints

#### **Nail Trimming**

We strongly urge you to trim your foster animals' claws on a regular basis. Besides helping to reduce snags and scratches (on your furniture, clothing, and your own skin!), regular nail trimming – once a week, more or less – can help socialize your fosters. The handling they receive during this procedure will help them get used to being gently restrained and worked with prior to adoption.

#### **Bathing**

One of the more common problems we encounter with animals we receive in our shelter, are dogs with skin issues. As such you may find that you are fostering a dog that requires bathing on a regular basis and may also require special shampoo for such purposes. Medicated baths are common. You will be provided with the shampoo or medication needed for your foster if necessary as well as instructions on the frequency of such baths.

## SOCIALIZATION

One of the most important parts of your job as a foster parent is to convince your foster animal(s) that humans are kind and loving. Some dogs and cats will adjust quickly to you and their new environment, but to some, you may seem like a strange and frightening giant! To make their transition into your home an easy one, you will need to give foster animals a day or so to accustom themselves to their new surroundings.

The principles of socializing are the same for all – love them and they will respond. An outgoing, friendly animal can be cuddled and petted. The less social ones will need some encouragement.

Some adult animals that need socialization will require even more patience and understanding. Dogs that need socialization will benefit greatly from being around other dogs that are comfortable with people. Even more important to socializing a dog that is timid or scared is exercise. Exercise at the end of a leash is extremely important in creating social standing for your foster dog. Please be certain that in walking your foster dog that they are walking beside or behind you. This positioning will reinforce that you are leading them and they will be more comfortable following you than acting as the leader.

Also, do not reinforce behavior such as fear, nervousness or aggression by touching, talking or coddling the dog when they exhibit any of these behaviors. While it is very natural to want to pet or comfort them when they are scared or timid, this in fact is encouraging them to continue with that behavior. Rather you should ignore such behavior and act like whatever is causing them to act this way is nothing. The more you demonstrate that it's nothing, the more they will sense this from you and eventually act the same way. Take them for a walk. You should try and remain relaxed, calm but assertive as you walk them to give them confidence in you. Eventually this will encourage them to relax. When they relax or show any calmness, give them lots of positive attention, pets and words of praise.

Unfortunately, while these animals need and deserve lots of love, it does not fix behavior problems (if this were the case we would all have perfect children). However calm assertive leadership will. So show them lots of calm leadership and then show them lots of love when they respond with their own calm, relaxed behavior.

## **NOT A GOOD FIT or NEED TO STOP FOSTERING**

If at any time your foster is not fitting in at your home or you do not feel like they are a good match for you and your family, do not hesitate to let us know as soon as possible. We will look for another foster for you and also a more appropriate home for your previous foster.

As fosters are limited, it is important for our Foster Care Coordinator to have as much advance notice as possible if you are not going to be able to continue to foster for any reason. Such as if you are going out of town or on vacation or having company that makes it impossible to continue to foster either short or long term. At a minimum 2 week notice would be greatly appreciated so that we have time to find another foster.

Again it is important to keep in mind that senior animals are harder to place and as such they may require foster care for longer than other animals. While not meant to be a warning we do want fosters who are prepared for a longer term commitment to these animals as we prefer not to bounce them around between fosters as it can be emotionally hard on these animals. So be realistic and honest with yourself and us about your ability to take on this commitment before accepting an animal into your home.

We want our fosters to love fostering and to not see it as a burden or an inconvenience. So please consider these realities and share your concerns or questions with our coordinator. We also can put you in touch with other fosters who may be able to share their experiences and reassure you.

## READY FOR A FOREVER HOME

As a foster of an animal that may take more time to find their perfect forever home, you will need to plan on supporting some activities that are necessary to help find that home. A few of these are:

- Bring your foster to the shelter for photo session.
- Provide updates on your foster, their behavior, personality, positive traits, and your input on the ideal home for your foster. This information will be used to keep their PetFinder profile up-to-date.
- We want you to share pictures and details about your foster on our Facebook group page. This is a great way to get attention for our fosters, who are not in the shelter but also often encourages our Facebook group members to consider an animal when they hear a foster talking about them. Please do this often and accurately. We don't want adopters to be caught by surprised when they get the foster home and they are not all they were described to be. Especially "housebroken" status.
- Be prepared to bring your foster to Shelter adoption events and other activities to give them exposure to potential adopters.
- Also be prepared to meet potential adopters once they have been approved. As we do not want to inconvenience fosters by having them meet anyone that is interested in your foster, we will require an approved application before arranging a meeting and it will be done at your convenience.
- One very important rule – if you decide that you want to adopt your foster, you must inform the Foster Care Coordinator before an approved applicant has met your foster.

You have survived the past few weeks, and that bittersweet day has arrived. Your foster animal is ready to take the next step towards their forever home. Whether they are being adopted, returning to the shelter or being transferred to one of the rescue groups we work so closely with, your job as foster parent for this lucky animal is almost over. But before they leave your care, there are few last things you can do for your foster.

### Are They Healthy Enough to Go Home?

The first is to make certain that they are healthy enough to be placed. Especially in cases where they are going to rescue, it is especially important that they not have any illness that can be transferred to other animals also being transported. As normally our animals are transported in a cargo van with several other animals in close proximity disease such as upper respiratory is easily passed between animals in these close quarters. So make sure that you contact the Foster Care Coordinator if you see any signs of illness, even if it is the morning they are due to leave.

### Are They Current?

Second, make certain your foster has received all vaccinations or treatments they are due. If unsure as to whether they are current you should contact the Foster Care Coordinator and if you know they are not, inform the Foster Care Coordinator or the Shelter as soon as possible.

### Share Your Knowledge

Next, it is also very helpful for the new owner of your foster to benefit from what you have learned about the animal during their time in your home. Please feel free to take the opportunity to share your insights via a letter to their new owner. You can also include your mailing address or e-mail so that they may correspond with you about the progress of your foster after they have been adopted. Know that in some cases, new owners may not choose to correspond after the fact. However your letter can help make the transition to their new home easier if you can share with them all that you know about your foster. It's the last gift you will give your foster and their new owner, so please consider it. Also you might send with them a favorite or special toy. This can make their new home feel more like home.

## **Congratulate Yourself on a Job Well Done**

Lastly, the final step is to remember to pat yourself on the back for having done such a wonderful thing. Your hard work and loving care has paid off and you've quite literally been a life-saver. We sincerely thank you for giving the gift of life to those animals who might not have been so lucky without you. All fosters realize a sadness when one of their animals leaves their home for their next, but there is also great fulfillment and happiness in knowing what a difference you make in an animal's life. Remember that and share it with your next foster.

## THE FOSTER CARE CHECKLIST

- Meet the qualifications of an adopter including agreeing to allowing landlord checks and complying with landlord restrictions.
- Agree that all family members of the household be in agreement about opening the home to fostering, and will follow the guidelines for animal care given by the Foster Care representative.
- Agree that, unless prior approval is requested and granted, no animal from any other organization will be fostered while fostering for the HSOP.
- Agree to a home check upon the request of the Foster Care Coordinator.
- Complete and sign a Foster Care Application before acceptance as a Foster caregiver.
- Agree that any dog(s) or puppies fostered will be kept indoors unless otherwise discussed and approved by the Foster Care Coordinator.
- Agree that any cat(s) fostered will be kept indoors at all times.
- Agree to meet with the Foster Care Coordinator when requested.
- Agree to meet with potential adopters to allow them to meet your foster animal.
- Agree to keep all household pets fully vaccinated to avoid their contracting disease from fostered animals.
- Agree that the HSOP will not be responsible for veterinary care of household pets or medical care of humans contracting diseases from foster animals.
- Agree to provide a nutritious diet to the foster(s), following the recommendations of the Foster Care Coordinator.
- Agree to contact the Foster Care Coordinator at the point of any medical difficulty with any foster animal.
- Agree that all decisions made by medical staff and/or shelter management are final.
- Agree to immediately report any bites and/or aggressive incidents with a foster animal to the Foster Care Coordinator.
- Agree that all foster animals are the property of the HSOP, and must be relinquished to the shelter upon request.